

# **GREEN BOOK**

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID SEARCH AND RESCUE ANNEX**

### **Purpose of this Annex**

- 1. To provide the legal authorities as the basis for search and rescue operations within the State of California.**
- 2. To describe state policies and procedures for search and rescue within the existing framework of the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System.**
- 3. To define and outline the state's organization for the conduct of mutual aid in search and rescue operations.**
- 4. To provide a system for alerting, call-out, and deployment of trained search and rescue personnel, and for the dispatch of special purpose or other unique teams and equipment for search and rescue operations.**
- 5. To describe the State of California Workers' Compensation Insurance Program and its application to search and rescue volunteers both during authorized training and in actual search operations.**
- 6. To facilitate the dissemination of search and rescue information, data and circumstances related to unique search missions or incidents; to provide training programs, training guidance, and training experiences for local agency teams and individuals in emerging search and rescue strategy and tactics, as well as search and rescue equipment development.**

### **Acronyms used in Search and Rescue**

<b>AFB</b>	<b>Air Force Base</b>
<b>AFC</b>	<b>Air Force Command</b>
<b>AFM</b>	<b>Air Force Manual</b>
<b>AFRCC</b>	<b>Air Force Rescue Coordination Center</b>
<b>ACFT</b>	<b>Aircraft</b>
<b>ALNOT</b>	<b>Alert Notification</b>
<b>ARS</b>	<b>Air Rescue Service</b>
<b>AT</b>	<b>Annual Training</b>
<b>BC</b>	<b>Base Camp</b>
<b>CALTRANS</b>	<b>California Department of Transportation</b>
<b>CALESAR</b>	<b>California Explorer Search and Rescue Team</b>
<b>CAP</b>	<b>Civil Air Patrol</b>
<b>CAPM</b>	<b>Civil Air Patrol Manual</b>
<b>CARDA</b>	<b>California Rescue Dog Association</b>
<b>CASSDA</b>	<b>California Swiss Search Dog Association</b>
<b>CCC</b>	<b>California Conservation Corps</b>
<b>CDC</b>	<b>California Department of Corrections</b>
<b>CDF</b>	<b>California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection</b>
<b>CMDR</b>	<b>Commander</b>
<b>CHP</b>	<b>California Highway Patrol</b>
<b>CLEMARS</b>	<b>California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Radio System</b>
<b>CLETS</b>	<b>California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System</b>
<b>CNG</b>	<b>California National Guard</b>
<b>COMPCAREACOGARD</b>	<b>Commander Pacific Area Coast Guard</b>
<b>CPR</b>	<b>Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation</b>
<b>CYA</b>	<b>California Youth Authority</b>
<b>DART</b>	<b>Drowning Accident Rescue Team</b>
<b>DBW</b>	<b>California Department of Boating and Waterways</b>
<b>DF</b>	<b>Direction Finding</b>
<b>DFG</b>	<b>California Department of Fish and Game</b>
<b>DOD</b>	<b>Department of Defense</b>
<b>DPR</b>	<b>California Department of Parks and Recreation</b>
<b>ELT</b>	<b>Emergency Locator Transmitter</b>
<b>EMS</b>	<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>
<b>EOC</b>	<b>Emergency Operation Center</b>
<b>EPIRB</b>	<b>Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon</b>
<b>EMT</b>	<b>Emergency Medical Technician</b>
<b>FAA</b>	<b>Federal Aviation Administration</b>
<b>FCC</b>	<b>Federal Communications Commission</b>
<b>FEMA</b>	<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency</b>
<b>FLT</b>	<b>Flight</b>
<b>HQUSASIX</b>	<b>Headquarters United States Sixth Army</b>
<b>IC</b>	<b>Incident Commander</b>
<b>ICS</b>	<b>Incident Command System</b>
<b>LKP</b>	<b>Last Known Position</b>

<b>MBSDA</b>	<b>Monterey Bay Search Dog Association</b>
<b>MCO</b>	<b>Mission Control Officer</b>
<b>MPS</b>	<b>Mountain Public Service Rescue Team</b>
<b>M/VC</b>	<b>Military and Veterans Code</b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b>National Defense Plan</b>
<b>OES</b>	<b>Governor's Office of Emergency Services</b>
<b>OHT</b>	<b>Overhead Team</b>
<b>OPLAN</b>	<b>Operations Plan</b>
<b>OSC</b>	<b>On Scene Commander</b>
<b>PIO</b>	<b>Public Information Officer</b>
<b>PLS</b>	<b>Point Last Seen</b>
<b>PSAR</b>	<b>Preventive Search and Rescue</b>
<b>POA</b>	<b>Probability of Area</b>
<b>POD</b>	<b>Probability of Detection</b>
<b>POS</b>	<b>Probability of Success</b>
<b>ROW</b>	<b>Rest of the World</b>
<b>RP</b>	<b>Reporting Party</b>
<b>SAR</b>	<b>Search and Rescue</b>
<b>SARCOORD</b>	<b>Search and Rescue Coordinator</b>
<b>SARSAT</b>	<b>Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking</b>
<b>SMC</b>	<b>Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator</b>
<b>SMF</b>	<b>State Military Force</b>
<b>USAF</b>	<b>United States Air Force</b>
<b>USAR</b>	<b>Urban Search and Rescue</b>
<b>USCG</b>	<b>United States Coast Guard</b>
<b>WOOF</b>	<b>Wilderness Finders, Inc.</b>

## **Authorities**

**A. California Master Mutual Aid Agreement**

**B. California State Emergency Plan**

**C. California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan**

**D. California Government Code**

**1. Section 26614 - Search and Rescue Expenses:**

The Board of Supervisors of a county may authorize the Sheriff to search for and rescue persons who are lost or are in danger of their lives within or in the immediate vicinity of the county. The expenses incurred by the Sheriff in the performance of such duties shall be a proper county charge.

**2. Section 26614.50 - Sharing Expenses:**

**The county or city and county of a residence of a person searched for or rescued by the Sheriff under the authority of Section 26614 shall pay to the county conducting the search or rescue in any case where the expenses exceed \$100.00.**

- 1. Must file claim within 30 days**
- 2. Reasonable expenses**

**3. Section 26614.6**

**Whenever a county or city and county is billed for a search or rescue of one of its residents by another county or city and county, the county or city and county receiving the bill may in turn seek reimbursement from that resident. A person living within a county or city and county who is searched for or rescued by a county or city and county shall pay the county or city and county conducting the search or rescue all of the reasonable expenses for the search and rescue within 30 days of being billed if the need for the search and rescue was caused by any of the following:**

- 1. Any intentional act in violation of any federal or state law or local ordinance.**
- 2. Any intentional act that is inherently dangerous and the person rescued knew of this risk.**
- 3. Any act or omission by the person searched for or rescued that shows a reckless or wanton disregard for his or her safety.**

**4. Section 26614.7 - Exceptions/limitations to the payment of SAR costs**

- 1. The county or city and county shall not collect charges from those persons who the county or city and county determines are unable to pay the charges.**
- 2. Cautionary small craft statements and small craft advisories are defined in the most recent edition of the National Weather Service Operations Manual issued by the National Weather Service, shall not be considered evidence of an intentional act that is inherently dangerous.**
- 3. A county or city and county shall not bill a resident more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for a search and/or rescue.**

**5. Section 26615 - Directory of Specially Trained Dogs:**

**The Sheriff shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, a directory of specially trained dogs with proven ability in search and rescue operations as one of the possible methods to be used under the authority of Section 26614. The directory shall include the location of the dogs and a list of their previous experience.**

**6. Section 26620 - Office:**

**The office of the County Director of Civil Defense and Disaster shall be held ex-officio by the County Sheriff.**

**7. Section 29612 - Searches and Rescues:**

**The expense necessarily incurred in searches and rescues for persons who are lost or in danger of their lives are county charges.**

**8. Section 53240 - Authority of Legislative Body; Payment of Costs; Determination of Value:**

**The legislative body of a county may provide for the payment of the costs of replacing or repairing property of an employee, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, watches, or articles of clothing when any such items are damaged in the line of duty without fault of the employee. If the items are damaged beyond repair, the actual value of such items shall be determined as of the time of the damage thereto.**

## **General**

**In all jurisdictions in California, except in the City and County of San Francisco, the Sheriff, as Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the county, retains the responsibility for the search and rescue (SAR) of lost individuals and for missing or downed aircraft occurring in that jurisdiction. In the City and County of San Francisco these responsibilities are charged to the Chief of Police. However, this does not relieve municipal governments, special districts, and other political subdivisions of the State, either by law or by inference in the Government Code, of the responsibility to conduct initial SAR investigative actions or actual field operations when persons are reported either lost or missing. Furthermore, to define responsibility and to hasten the state's response, additional legislation enacted a few years past, required special attention be afforded to lost or missing juvenile subjects and victims. The law was later broadened even further to include all subjects categories.**

**In some specific areas of the State where exclusive law enforcement jurisdiction is exercised by the host authority, i.e., National Parks, some military bases, and other federal lands, the host law enforcement authority retains the responsibility for SAR operations. Usually the Law Enforcement Authority of these exclusive jurisdiction areas will call upon the sheriffs of adjoining counties for assistance in SAR operations. Such assistance has been routinely provided over the years but may be further based upon written Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) or informally based upon daily working relations. Other areas of non-state lands, such as national forests and other military bases, share the law enforcement responsibility. In these areas of concurrent jurisdiction SAR responsibility may be shared; but, in most instances, SAR operations are conducted by the Sheriff of that county. The role of the host is usually that of support to the Sheriff's field operations.**

**This system of jurisdictional responsibility has proven effective over the many years and has provided the resources necessary to conduct typical SAR operations. Only in those instances where a shortfall of personnel or equipment resources is experienced within that county would there be a need to request assistance from another jurisdiction. In these SAR events where additional resources are needed beyond the capability of the host jurisdiction, the state's system for mutual aid assistance is activated.**

# Mutual Aid

The system for mutual aid in California is an outgrowth of California's Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (1950) and the Governor's Executive Order, both signed by Governor Earl Warren.

The concept of mutual aid is simply neighbor helping neighbor during emergency conditions. This assistance is done on a voluntary basis and is usually without cost to the requestor. In SAR, such assistance is always provided with sheriffs volunteer forces that are trained by the department for suburban, rural, and back country search and rescue operations. In California, a SAR event is considered an emergency.

## A. Local

SAR operations conducted within incorporated areas of the state are usually the responsibility of the chiefs of police where such departments exist. The resources within that police department would be committed to a SAR incident and could also include civilian volunteer personnel from within the incorporated community.

## B. Operational Area (County)

When the magnitude of a SAR incident exceeds the capabilities of the local police department, that department may and should request SAR assistance from the County Sheriff, the Operational Area Law Enforcement Coordinator. All SAR resources within that county (operational area) could then be committed by the Sheriff to the SAR incident. The sheriff's resources would likely include salaried deputies, other county agencies and their employees, and/or registered civilian volunteers who are affiliated with the sheriff's department. Locally situated state agencies could also be requested for resources support such as the California Highway Patrol with its rotary and fixed winged aircraft.

## C. Region

Within the regional concept of mutual aid, several counties may have already initiated mutual aid agreements to assist each other in SAR operations. These agreements, formal or informal, have evolved mainly through necessity. The errant direction of travel of lost persons and aircraft in trouble are not restricted by jurisdictional boundaries. The need for expanded SAR training has also fostered the regional concept of mutual aid for SAR volunteer units in California. Scheduled training seminars and exercises provide many opportunities for cross training individuals and units in deployment for joint operations.

*In all instances where intercounty or regional assistance is provided in SAR, the overall responsibility for the management of resources and the conduct of the search is retained by the requesting jurisdiction.*

## D. State

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services Law Enforcement Branch has the responsibility of coordinating mutual aid in SAR for the State of California. This coordination responsibility extends to the fuse of both State or Federal resources and the deployment of other resources from adjoining regions. This role is prescribed in the state's

Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan and is conducted in much the same manner as in other Law Enforcement Mutual Aid activities. *Search is an Emergency* in life threatening circumstances. For this reason wider latitude in the mutual aid system is permitted in the evolution or escalation of support for SAR incidents. This strict adherence to the prescribed channels of communication detailed in requests for assistance is modified in appreciation of the timely response necessary in this type of an emergency.

Unless valued time can be gained in a SAR emergency by processing a local request for mutual aid assistance through the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator, all such SAR mutual aid requests are made directly to the OES Law Enforcement Branch. This expediency does not remove the responsibility of the requesting county to apprise the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator of the SAR emergency and the needed support from outside the region. A telephone message or hard copy notification or FAX is appropriate in such instances.

Resources for mutual aid assistance will always be requested through a Sheriff's department or State agency. Resources will be selected from the nearest adjacent jurisdiction having the needed resource skills, unless the availability of the nearest team overrides this policy.

The diagram provided on the back cover of our SAR manual depicts the channels of communication for SAR notification. The dotted connecting line between county-region-state illustrates the delayed advisory notice usually observed in requests for SAR mutual aid.

The diagram further illustrates the Office of Emergency Services' position and role within the National SAR System. The National SAR Plan (NSP), dated February 1, 1991, designates agencies having statewide responsibility for the coordination of SAR operations as the point of contact for federal assistance or support. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Langley Field, Virginia, is the federal agency responsible for inland SAR coordination within the forty eight contiguous states. *OES is tasked as the statewide requestor within the NSP to coordinate all requests for federal resource assistance to all local jurisdictions within California.*

Although the AFRCC maintains a toll-free telephone number, (800)851-3051, which is accessible to any caller, all requests for federal assistance will eventually be acted upon by the AFRCC through OES. In a like manner, all requests from the federal government or from other states for California SAR personnel or equipment resources are accomplished through AFRCC to the California SAR coordinating agency, OES. These procedures routinely transpire with daily information being passed to OES from AFRCC on Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT) radio signals from Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT); alert notification of overdue aircraft as well as infrequent requests for assistance from the U.S. State Department related to international SAR incidents.

## State Resources

OES retains administrative management for several volunteer SAR groups and state agencies SAR teams. The members of these volunteer groups are non-state employees, but are designated Disaster Service Workers (DSW) within the provisions of the

**State Emergency Plan.** When requested by local jurisdictions, these volunteers are dispatched by OES within or outside the state as temporary state employees. When dispatched by the state, an administrative number, called a mission number, is always assigned to the incident. This administrative number/mission number triggers limited protection against liability claims and provides Workers' Compensation coverage in the event of an accident. This protection is afforded these volunteer SAR personnel from the beginning to the conclusion of the SAR incident.

Agencies who utilize minors as disaster service workers (e.g., explorer scouts, etc.) should note the following:

1. A volunteer disaster service worker who is a minor is not excluded because of his age from the coverage under worker's compensation provisions relating to disaster service workers.
2. The child labor statutes do not apply to the state or its political subdivisions and, therefore, as a matter of law is not applicable to disaster service workers who are minors. However, as a matter of public policy such statutes should be adhered to if it is reasonably possible to do so.
3. An individual who is responsible for impressing a minor into service or accepting a minor's voluntary service as a disaster service worker will not incur additional liability as a result of such action merely because the disaster worker is a minor.

## **Current Entitlement**

**State Compensation Insurance, State of California Disaster Employees:**

**A. *Temporary disability* - \$448 weekly**

**B. *Permanent disability* - \$448 weekly  
(Depending on percentage of disability)**

**C. *Death***

1. One Dependent                      \$115,000.00
2. Two Dependents                      \$135,000.00
3. Three Dependents plus      \$150,000.00

**4. \$5,000.00 burial allowance**

**5. Safety Officer Benefits Act                      \$**

**D. *Conditions***

1. Must be registered with the local Civil Defense Director or State OES as a Disaster Service Worker.
2. Includes coverage for training exercises (at the training site only).
3. Must be on an authorized response.
4. The registering agency must be aware of the response.

Any State of California government agency may be tasked by OES to directly assist in or provide support to local agencies in a SAR incident. OES has the responsibility for

contacting all State agencies requested and for assigning an administrative number for purposes of fiscal tracking. Usually local agencies needing state assistance for resources already have existing close working relationships with these State agencies at the district or subdistrict level. Such relationships should be continued and/or enhanced for operational convenience and other considerations with no further need to contact OES. It is important, however, to understand at the outset exactly who is responsible for any payments or reimbursements for services when these state agency resources are sought and used at the local level.

#### **STATE AGENCIES FREQUENTLY TASKED:**

##### **A. Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)**

###### **Capabilities:**

- 1. SAR contact link with AFRCC; and other federal agencies**
- 2. 24 hour response posture for SAR coordination**
- 3. SAR mutual aid coordination responsibility**
- 4. Special resources:**
  - a. California Explorer Search and Rescue Team (CALESAR)**
  - b. California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA)**
  - c. Drowning Accident Rescue Team (DART)**
  - d. Mountain Public Service Team (CYA)**
  - e. Wilderness Finders, Inc. (WOOF)**
  - f. Monterey Bay Search Dogs (MBSD)**
  - g. California-Swiss Search Dog Association (CSSDA)**
  - h. Underground SAR Teams**
- 5. On-site SAR management (upon request)**
- 6. Radio communications caches (CLEMARS frequency hand helds, base stations)**
- 7. Mine rescue equipment cache**
- 8. Private vendor contact**

##### **B. California Highway Patrol (CHP)**

The CHP has greatly expanded its role in SAR over the past ten years. With SAR in mind as a primary function, recently acquired helicopters and other aircraft are specially equipped to conduct airborne SAR and to facilitate SAR ground activities. All CHP helicopters are fitted with LORAN-C, navigation instruments; direction finding equipment; and multi-channel Wulfsberg digital communications systems. CHP helicopter crews include at least two (2) medical providers at the minimum EMT-1 level.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

CHP SAR resource assets may be brought in at any point within the specified SAR request and communications channel. SAR coordinators at the city or county level are encouraged to contact CHP immediately when the need for their services and expertise is identified by directly contacting the Air Operations Unit in the resident CHP division.

The CHP also operates fixed-wing aircraft within its jurisdictional divisions which are equipped to provide aerial surveillance, direction finding and position fixing capabilities in SAR incidents.

***Other Capabilities:***

- 1. Traffic control**
- 2. Radio communications relay**
- 3. Aerial medical evacuation**

**C. Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)**

***Capabilities:***

- 1. Vehicle for transportation**
- 2. Snow removal equipment**
- 3. Other heavy equipment**

**D. Department of Forestry (CDF)**

***Capabilities:***

- 1. Four wheeled drive vehicles**
- 2. Helicopters**
- 3. Ground crews (grid searchers)**
- 4. Hand held radios (FIREMARS frequency)**
- 5. Field kitchens**

**E. Department of Fish and Game (DFG)**

***Capabilities:***

- 1. Four wheeled drive vehicles**
- 2. Boats**
- 3. Area knowledge**

**F. Department of Corrections (CDC)**

***Capabilities:***

- 1. Ground crews (grid searchers)**
- 2. Field kitchens**

**G. California Youth Authority (CYA)**

***Capabilities:***

- 1. Trained hasty teams (MPST)**
- 2. Trackers**
- 3. Ground Crews (grid searchers)**
- 4. High mobility/immediate response**

**H. California National Guard (CNG)**

***Capabilities:***

- 1. Helicopter transport**
- 2. Aerial medical evacuation**
- 3. Ground crews (grid searchers)**
- 4. Special optical equipment**
- 5. Base camp logistics**

## **I. California Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP)**

The CAP, composed of aviation oriented civilians, military reservists, and active duty military volunteers, is organized along conventional military lines by state wings. As an auxiliary of the active U.S. Air Force, they respond to the majority of SAR missions in the Inland Region, primarily in operations to locate downed or missing aircraft along with the arduous task of finding and silencing false alarming ELT's. As a resource of the State of California, the California Wing CAP works closely with, and is frequently tasked by OES as disaster service workers to also assist in disaster preparedness planning and as responders during actual civil emergencies. When conducting operations in California, the CAP functions with an OES administrative number for each mission. Added information relating to the CAP is included as an appendix to the SAR Annex.

### ***Capabilities:***

- 1. Corporate and privately owned fixed wing aircraft**
- 2. Airborne direction finding**
- 3. Airborne Communications Relay (CAP COMM)**
- 4. Ground teams**

While this list of state agencies does not include all the departments that could be brought into a support role in a SAR incident, it does identify those organizations most frequently involved in mutual aid SAR events. When state agencies are committed to support an incident, an OES administrative number is assigned to that department to defray costs and other expenditures experienced in its support operations.

## **Federal Assistance**

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), as the coordinating agency for federal assistance within the Inland Region, is responsible for contacting all federal resources for SAR support and services. When federal agencies are tasked by the AFRCC to support local operations, these services are accomplished at no cost to local or state government. Federal agencies with SAR capabilities are tasked by AFRCC within the framework of the NSP to fulfill international, national, and local requests for assistance. The responders are usually from the uniformed services of the U.S. Department of Defense but also includes the U.S. Coast Guard, which is a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Other federal agencies having a special interest in emergency services or which can provide helpful ancillary SAR services or special facilities needed for SAR include:

### ***Federal Agencies Frequently Tasked:***

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)**
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**
- National Park Service (NPS)**
- United States Forest Service (USFS)**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

**National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)**

**A. U.S. Coast Guard**

U.S. Coast Guard maintains a wide variety of SAR resources, primarily dedicated to maritime search throughout the United States and its territories. The Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area (COMPAC-AREA) is the SAR Coordinator for the Eastern Pacific Maritime Sub-Region. California lies within this geographical area and is divided into the San Francisco SAR Sector and the Long Beach SAR Sector. These SAR sectors comprise the Twelfth and Eleventh Coast Guard Districts, respectively. The resources and facilities within these districts are available to the needs of state and local agencies in emergency situations when requested by the appropriate authority.

- 1. Fixed wing aircraft**
- 2. Helicopters**
- 3. Cutters**
- 4. Boats**
- 5. Stations**
- 6. Coast Guard Auxiliary**

**B. U.S. Air Force (USAF)**

Air Force missions are coordinated by the AFRCC at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. AFRCC is also the liaison between other military/federal SAR Coordinators and the FAA National Track Analysis Program (NTAP). Other Air Force resources are controlled by other commands but may be accessed through the AFRCC.

- 1. Special purpose aircraft: Photo reconnaissance and Side looking radar reconnaissance**
- 2. Helicopters**
- 3. Air Force Para-rescue units**
- 4. CAP**
- 5. Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST)**

**C. U.S. Army**

The U.S. Army is the designated SAR Coordinator for military operations responding to natural disasters within United States territory. Specified units and installations maintain a large variety of resources.

- 1. Light fixed wing aircraft**
- 2. Helicopters**
- 3. Land SAR units**
- 4. Disaster equipment**

**D. Federal Aviation Administration**

- 1. Aircraft of various types**
- 2. Flight following and alerting services**
- 3. Radar nets**
- 4. VHF direction finding nets**

# **APPENDIX # 1**

## **U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center**

### ***References:***

- a. National SAR Plan**
- b. AFM 64-2 (National SAR Manual)**
- c. AFM 2-36 (SAR Operations)**
- d. JCS Pub 2 (Unified Action Armed Forces)**
- e. ARRS OPLAN 9506**

### **I. Situation**

There is a continuing requirement for search and rescue efforts on behalf of occupants of aircraft or surface vehicles/vessels when they are missing or in distress. This requirement applies to both civilian and military personnel, in peacetime as well as during hostilities. In addition to providing SAR support for their own operations, the armed forces have traditionally accepted, to the extent practicable, a moral or humanitarian obligation to aid civilians and property in distress. The National Search and Rescue Plan, as amended February 1, 1991, defines this need and delineates three regions, viz., the Inland Region comprising the forty eight contiguous states and the District of Columbia, the Maritime Region which includes all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and certain areas on the high seas, the Overseas Region, including the interior of Alaska. The National SAR Plan also designates the Air Force, the Coast Guard, and the overseas area commanders, respectively, as the responsible agencies for these regions. AFR 23-19 further designates the Air Rescue Service as the executive agency for the Inland Region.

### **A. Definitions:**

#### ***1. Inland Region***

The inland areas of Continental United States, except the inland area of Alaska and waters under the jurisdiction of the United States.

#### ***2. Maritime Region***

The waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; the State of Hawaii; the portions of the State of Alaska south of 58 degrees north latitude and east of 141 degrees west longitude; the high seas and those commonwealths, territories and possessions of the United States lying within the area designated as the "Maritime Region".

#### ***3. Overseas Region***

Overseas unified command areas, and the inland area of Alaska, which are not included within the Inland Region or the Maritime Region as defined above.

#### ***4. SAR Coordinator***

An official responsible for coordinating and, as appropriate, controlling SAR operations of a SAR Region, sub-region or sector.

#### ***5. Regional SAR Coordinators***

Inland Region- U.S. Air Force Maritime Region - U.S. Coast Guard Overseas Regions - Unified Commanders.

#### ***6. SAR Sub-region***

The geographical area formed by dividing SAR regions into smaller areas of responsibility.

**7. *Rescue Coordination Center (RCC)***

A primary SAR facility suitably staffed by supervisory personnel and equipped for coordinating and controlling SAR operations.

**8. *SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC)***

An official designated by a Regional or Sub-regional SAR Coordinator for coordinating and controlling a specific SAR mission.

**9. *On Scene Commander (OSC)***

An official who controls SAR operations and communications at the scene of a distress mission when control of the mission cannot be exercised effectively by the SMC.

## **II. MISSION**

The Air Rescue Service, as SAR Coordinator for the Inland Region, will organize and integrate existing agencies for their facilities into a basic cooperative SAR network for rendering assistance to military, civilians, and property in distress, consistent with existing laws and agreements.

## **III. EXECUTION**

**A. *Concept of Operations:***

The Regional SAR Coordinator will establish, staff and operate a RCC (#7 above) in the Inland Region through which he discharges his duties and responsibilities in accordance with AFM 64-2.

**B. *Tasks of the Air Force RCC:***

1. Functions as the SAR Coordinator for the Inland SAR Region.
2. Establishes, staffs and operates a RCC to function as the coordinating facility in its area of responsibility.
3. Negotiates and develops joint SAR agreements with federal agencies and state governments SAR agencies within its area of responsibility.
4. Accepts information relative to SAR incidents or potential SAR incidents, and any requests for SAR assistance. SAR Coordinators will not accede to requests for assistance from local government agencies in SAR incidents involving civilians without reference to the state government SAR agency when applicable.
5. Complies with agreements negotiated in support of this plan with other SAR agencies.
6. Evaluates each SAR incident or request for assistance to determine and take the proper course of action.
7. Monitors and evaluates SAR operations for effectiveness. Functions as or assists the SMC as applicable. Assistance provided will include offering advice, guidance and instruction during the course of SAR operations. Reduce the SMC's administrative workload by preparing and transmitting to interested agencies will reports required in accordance with this plan. (Mission report data will be accumulated by the SMC and

telephoned to the appropriate RCC under normal conditions.

8. Conducts liaison, preplanning and coordination with state and local officials in developing the supporting structures for SAR operations.

9. Coordinates or controls SAR operations which are interstate in character or have a high degree of national interest.

*C. Support by other Agencies:*

1. Major Commands of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard districts will, by agreement with the Regional SAR Coordinator, provide for the fullest practicable utilization of facilities in SAR missions, consistent with statutory responsibilities and authorities and assigned functions of such agencies, and will provide the SAR Coordinator authority for the coordination of these facilities committed to such missions.

2. Civil agencies of the federal government will, by agreement with the Regional SAR Coordinator, provide for the fullest practicable statutory responsibilities and authorities and assigned functions of such agencies, and will provide for such coordination by the SAR Coordinator of their facilities as may be necessary and practicable.

3. State, local and private agencies will, by agreement with the Regional SAR Coordinator, provide for the fullest practicable cooperation in SAR missions, consistent with the willingness and ability of such agencies to engage in SAR, and will provide for such coordination by the SAR Coordinator of their facilities as may be necessary and practicable.

4. The CAP will conduct SAR operations upon the request and authorization of the Air Force RCC, and will accept the SMC responsibility and control of participating CAP forces upon the request of the Air Force.

## **IV. COMMAND AND CONTROL**

A. Existing command structure of all military or nonmilitary agencies participating in this plan will remain in effect, except as it pertains to forces and/or resources committed to their operations which come under the purview of this plan, in which instance operational control of these forces will be delegated to the SMC or OSC, consistent with agreements as outlined below.

B. SMC, as defined and designated in accordance with this plan will, regardless of service or command of assignment, exercise operational control of federal, and coordinated nonfederal resources allocated to each SAR mission. Although federal leadership in the search and rescue field may generally be recognized, the federal government holds no mandate to compel state, local, or private agencies to conform to a national search and rescue plan. The desires of state and local agencies to direct and control their own facilities in SAR missions resulting from intrastate or local activities within their boundaries must be respected and ensured. Cooperation, therefore, must be sought through liaison and agreements.

C. A civil agency within a state or subdivision thereof may exercise control of the overall SAR effort, in consonance with the recognized authority of the several states and their responsibility for the protection of life and property of the citizens. When military personnel and/or equipment are requested and committed to support a civil agency in

accordance with this plan, a military SMC will be designated to control and direct the military effort.

D. In those cases in which the state of local agency retains this control, a military SMC will be appointed by the Regional SAR Coordinator and will exercise operational control of the military forces committed. Agreements negotiated in support of this plan, at whatever level, will take cognizance of this principle.

## **V. GENERAL**

A. The provisions of this plan are applicable to all Department of Defense and other federal agencies signatory to the National SAR Plan, and to the federal, state and local organizations who enter into formal or informal agreements with the Regional SAR Coordinator to provide mutual support in SAR operations. Established state and local organizations which perform SAR functions may desire, within political areas of responsibility, to retain those established SAR responsibilities which are primarily local or intrastate in character. In this event, appropriate arrangements will be made by the Regional SAR Coordinator and each state and/or local organization in question.

B. No provisions of this plan, or of any supporting plan, are to be construed in any way to contravene the responsibilities and authority of any participating state, county, municipality or other agency as defined by statutes, ordinances, executive orders or international agreements or the established responsibilities of other agencies and organizations which regularly assist persons and property in distress within local areas.

C. Boundaries of SAR regions and subdivisions thereof, established by or under this plan, are not to be construed as barriers to effective SAR operations or to the exercise of initiative and judgment.

D. No provisions of this plan or of any supporting plan are to be construed as an obstruction to prompt and effective action by any agency or individual to relieve distress whenever and wherever found.

E. Any installation or agency within the SAR system will accept and take immediate action on all reported SAR incidents. Action to be taken includes evaluating, providing immediate assistance within capability and reporting to the appropriate RCC by the most expeditious means available.

F. Each of the Armed Services provides SAR facilities in support of its own operations and in support of other services and civil SAR requirements on a noninterference basis.

G. The SAR Coordinator will coordinate and, as appropriate, direct the operations of the SAR mission therein, consistent with existent agreements, and will otherwise act to implement this plan.

H. Liaison and cooperations in SAR will be afforded to the SAR forces of other nations, as required, commensurate with capability.

I. The use of military SAR forces in law enforcement is prohibited under the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878. Although reference is made only to the Army of the United States in this act, legal interpretation makes it binding on the United States Air Force.

## **VI. RCC COMMUNICATIONS**

RCC communications provide the SAR Coordinator with a means of exercising command authority and of obtaining rapid and reliable information on distress or possible distress incidents from the source of scene for relay to all activities capable of providing assistance.

Coordinator/Controller positions in the RCC are equipped to permit access to all center communications circuits from each position.

The RCC has a capability to net with the area CAP radio nets. Basic criteria for radio equipment will be that it is crystal controlled, readily supportable, and a common item in the Air Force inventory.

*The Air Force RCC will:*

- A. Provide appropriate civil and federal agencies throughout areas of responsibility, necessary information for contacting the RCC.
- B. Accept collect calls for the reporting or coordinating of rescue missions.
- C. Maintain a communications directory of circuits, exchanges and telephone numbers in the area of responsibility to include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - 1. All military establishments;
  - 2. Federal Emergency Management Agency;
  - 3. State emergency services organizations;
  - 4. State Highway Patrol Headquarters;
  - 5. State and federal forestry services;
  - 6. CAP Regional and Wing Headquarters;
  - 7. State SAR Coordinators;
  - 8. Other rescue coordination centers;
  - 9. Federal Aviation Administration; and
  - 10. Air Force CAP Liaison Officers.

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) can be contacted through a variety of leased and commercial communications systems. These systems are explained in the following paragraph.

- 1. Commercial Toll Lines: Call (804)764-8113
- 2. Toll Free Number: (800)851-3051
- 3. Direct Dial Auto-von: 574-8112, 13, 14, 15, 16.
- 4. Mailing Address:

*Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)*  
*205 Dodd Blvd., Suite 101C*  
*Langley AFB, 23665-2789*

- 5. Electrical Transmission Message Address:  
HQ ACC/AFRCC LANGLEY AFB, VA.
- 6. Phone Patch: Provided by USAF Global High Frequency Aeronautical Stations on any of their assigned frequencies.
- 7. NAWAS: The National Warning System provides a capability for immediate notification of distress situations via hotlines.

## **VII. REPORTS SECTION**

Annex Papa to OPLAN 9506 establishes the procedures for reporting efforts expended on SAR operations. Information reported under the provisions of this annex will be used at all echelons to monitor SAR operations and to perform analysis for future programming requirements.

A. SAR Coordinators are responsible for the implementation and fulfillment of all reporting requirements. SAR Coordinators will ascertain that all efforts coordinated by the RCC on operational missions in support of this plan are completely reported.

B. Task agencies will report daily activities via verbal communications means as soon as possible after close of the day's efforts.

C. *Definitions:*

**1. Incident**

An occurrence wherein aircraft or persons are assumed to be in distress and require assistance.

**2. SAR Mission**

The conduct of SAR operations for aircraft or persons in distress involving the dispatch of SAR/recovery forces, whether by direction or as a spontaneous response to an emergency, when dispatched at the direction/request of the Regional RCC. For reporting purposes a mission will not be considered complete until all participating forces, air and/or ground, have returned to the home station.

**3. Sortie**

Applies to each separate flight accomplished while participating in any mission defined in paragraph D below.

D. For the purposes of this document, mission types are defined as follows:

**1. Search**

The effort to locate an object or person in distress, without subsequent location/recovery.

**2. Rescue/Recovery**

The use of the title words, "Rescue/Recovery" implies the location and recovery of personnel or aerospace hardware and return of the retrieved personnel/hardware to a designated area.

**3. Medical Evacuation**

The transportation of a sick or injured person to a medical facility.

**4. False**

The dispatch of SAR forces on a mission which is later proved unnecessary due to either lack of valid objective or lack of an emergency after dispatch. If a mission proves false after the dispatch and recovery of rescue forces, the mission will be classified according to the situation at the time of the alert.

**5. Support**

Operations involving the dispatch of SAR aircraft, equipment or personnel in support of active missions as defined in paragraphs 7D(1) through 7D(3) above. Example: Transport of government officials on aerial survey of flood damage as directed by the operational control commander.

**6. Assist**

a. Missions which are coordinated and/or controlled by established SAR agencies other than federal, such as an established and duly appointed state SAR agency, within the Inland Region, and for which federal assistance has been requested and provided, will be reported as "Assist" missions. Established state SAR agencies are those agencies designated by governors as State SAR Coordinators to coordinate SAR operations within their respective states, such as the Director, State Aeronautics Commission; Director, State Board of Aeronautics; Director, Department of Aeronautics; State Police; or State Forestry Service, Fish and Game Commission, etc.. The definition does not include local police or other agencies and organizations of the public service that normally participate in lifesaving activities. SAR Coordinators cannot direct any nonfederal agency to report SAR action in accordance with this plan. However, those federal agencies which are committed to and provide SAR assistance in a mission coordinated by a non federal agency will report their participation to the SAR Coordinator.

b. Missions which are coordinated and/or controlled by the United States Coast Guard within the Maritime Region, to include any federal agency which the Coast Guard may designate as SMC, controller, or commander, and for which assistance is provided from within the Inland Region area. Federal forces committed to assist in such missions from the Inland Region RCC will report their daily SAR activities to the SMC designated by the Coast Guard, and will also report their daily SAR Activities to the ARS SAR Coordinator. (Note: CAP is considered a federal SAR force.) SAR missions in which ARS is an assisting agency may be closed when the controlling agency suspends the SAR mission.

#### **7. Local Base SAR**

SAR operations within the vicinity of an airdrome, the conduct of which is determined to be within the capability of the SAR forces maintained by the airdrome in support of local flying operations, not requiring the alerting of nor assistance from other SAR agencies and facilities.

## **APPENDIX # 2**

### **California Wing, Civil Air Patrol**

#### **References:**

AFM 64-2

ARRS 9506 (Inland SAR)

CAPM 50-15 plus attachments, 15 April, 1983

Memorandum of Understanding, California Wing, CAP, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

#### **I. Situation**

##### **A. General**

This Appendix sets forth the conditions under which the California Wing, CAP, can be activated to assist in the conduct of search and rescue (SAR) and disaster relief operations within the State of California. As the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air

Force, CAP is tasked to provide this support consistent with its congressional charter and the appropriate USAF and CAP regulations.

#### **B. Area of Responsibility**

The California Wing, CAP is available for SAR and disaster relief operations within the State of California. Close coordination is maintained with CAP forces responsible for operations in adjacent states. For administrative purposes, the California Wing is divided into eleven groups, each with some number of assigned squadrons, covering the state's area. The responsibility for conducting actual SAR or disaster relief operations is assigned to a designated Mission Coordinator who utilizes air and ground resources drawn from the squadrons to accomplish the mission.

### **II. Mission**

The California Wing, CAP, will support SAR and disaster relief operations as authorized by the Air Rescue Service (ARS) of the USAF and/or the Director, Office of Emergency Services (OES), State of California.

### **III. Execution**

In concept, the California Wing, CAP, will respond to requests for support from the AFRCC and/or from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Authority to activate CAP units is transmitted to the Duty Wing Mission Control Officer (MCO) designated by the Commander, California Wing, CAP. An MCO is available on a 24 hour basis. The roster is provided to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Activation authority and alert information also may be transmitted directly to the Commander, Deputy Commander, Chief of Staff or Director.

It is the responsibility of the MCO and/or designated member of the wing staff to exercise established alerting procedures, activate, and man appropriate bases of operation. Reports will be filed and routed as prescribed in current directives.

### **IV. Communications**

A. CAP maintains a dedicated statewide radio network including fixed (point-to-point), mobile (vehicular) and air-to-ground (aircraft) facilities. These communications facilities, which are tied to a similar national network, may also, in emergency, handle third party traffic for other participating disaster or SAR agencies.

B. CAP, when authorized by requesting agencies, has a limited but increasing capability to operate on frequencies above 150 MHz.

### **V. Resources**

CAP maintains an extensive list of resources for response to SAR missions. These resources include approximately 2200 emergency services-rated personnel, 24 corporate owned aircraft and over 400 member owned aircraft. In addition to the aircraft resources, CAP maintains other resources such as numerous types of vehicles, field kitchens, emergency power generators and communications capabilities that are primarily dedicated to ground operations.

### **VI. Liability**

**CAP personnel, when functioning under orders published by competent authority, are covered by the provisions of the Federal Employees Compensation Act or the State of California Employee Compensation Program as appropriate. When operating under the authority of the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, both federal and State coverage are in effect.**